

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 EB-07 /019 W

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R 301725Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9149

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 9074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BL BR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: BOLIVIA-BRAZIL GAS PIPELINE

REF: (A) STATE 302645; (B) LA PAZ 8911; (C) LA PAZ 7077

1. LA PAZ 8911, 12/18/75, REPLIED TO STATE 288216 WITH REGARD
TO MICHAEL BAKER CO. BUT OMITTED BEXP TAG. REGRET ERROR.

2. REGARDING STATUS OF PROJECT, YPFB SOURCE ADVISES THAT BOTH
WORLD BANK, WHICH GOB HOPES WILL FINANCE MAJOR PART OF PROJECT,
AND GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL HAVE REQUESTED THAT OUTSIDE CONSULTANT
VERIFY BOLIVIA'S NATURAL GAS RESERVES. DALLAS FIRM OF DE
GOLYER AND MC NAUTON HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO PERFORM THIS VERI-
FICATION UNDER AN ONGOING CONTRACT WITH YPFB. THIS SOURCE SAYS
THAT YPFB ALREADY HAS PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDIES PERFORMED BY U.S.
FIRM OF WILLIAMS BROTHERS, BY ITSELF AND BY AN ITALIAN FIRM, AND
YPFB HOPES THAT WORLD BANK WILL ACCEPT THESE AS ADEQUATE TO
ESTABLISH PROJECT FEASIBILITY, IN WHICH CASE YPFB PLANS TO GO
DIRECTLY INTO ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTACT.

3. WITH GAS PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZIL, FINANCIAL NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH WORLD BANK, AND CONSULTANT VERIFICATION OF GAS
RESERVES ALL SCHEDULED FOR FIRST QUARTER 1976, WE EXPECT IT
WILL BE AT LEAST END OF THAT PERIOD BEFORE DECISION ON HOW
TO PROCEED WITH CONTRACTING OF PROJECT IS REACHED. EMBASSY
CONSIDERS THIS ONE OF GOB'S HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECTS AND WILL
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KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED OF EVENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

4. LA PAZ 7077 OF OCTOBER 8, 1975 ADVISED THAT WILLIAMS
BROTHERS IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GERMAN FIRM TO BID ON BOLIVIAN
PORTION OF GASOLINE. WILLIAMS TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND CON-

STRUCTION SUPERVISION WHILE GERMAN FIRM WILL PROVIDE PIPE.
STEDMAN

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Disposition Event:
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